(i) review the administrative and financial functioning of the Council in relation to aims and objectives as laid down in its Memorandum of Association (MOA)/Rules;

(ii) probe into non-publication/stoppage of volumes of 'Towards the Freedom Project;'

(iii) probe into non-submission of research work by scholars, who were given fellowship by the Council during 1995-96 —2000-01, as highlighted in the Report of the C & AG 2002-03;

(iv) probe into complaints/issues which are pending or could be received or referred by the Ministry about the functioning of the Council;

(v) consult eminent historians/academicians on any matter under review, if need be; and

(vi) make such recommendations and suggest remedial measures as are necessary to improve the functioning of the Council and ensure its autonomy.

New category of languages

352. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to create a new category of languages as classical languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to declare Tamil as the first language under the category;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have received any proposal to declare any other Indian languages as classical language; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has issued a notification on 12th October, 2004 creating a new category of languages as Classical Languages. Tamil has been declared a Classical Language. A copy of the notification is given in the Statement-I and II.

(e) and (f) The Government has also received requests to declare Kannada and Telugu as Classical Languages.

Statement-I

Notification for creating a new Category of Classical Language

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

Jaisalmer House, Mansingh Road,
New Delhi-110011 dated 12th October, 2004

NOTIFICATION

It has been decided by the Government of India to create a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages'.

2. The following criteria will be used to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as a 'Classical Language':—

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years.

(ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.

(iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

3. It is also notified that the 'Tamil Language' satisfies the criteria listed at para 2 above and would henceforth be classified as a 'Classical Language'.

4. The Ministry of Culture will take all further steps to follow up and implement the above decisions.

Sd/-
(A. K. JAIN)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 23070574

To

The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad.

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II Dated the 12th October, 2004

Copy to:—

1. Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Ministry of Culture, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary and Higher Education), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union Territories.

Shri Madhukar Sinha
Director, (Languages)
Deptt. of Secondary and
Higher Education,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Statement-II

Notification declaring Tamil as a Classical Language

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

Jaisalmer House, Mansingh Road,
New Delhi-110011 dated 29th October, 2004

NOTIFICATION

CORRIGENDUM

In the Notification of even number dated the 12th October, 2004 to be published in Part-I of Section 1 of the Gazette of India to create a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages', the following point may be inserted at sub-para (iv) after sub-para (iii) under para No. 2 of the said Notification:—

(iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

2. All other provisions of the said Notification will remain unchanged.

Sd.
(A. K. JAIN)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 23070574

To

The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II Dated the 29th October, 2004

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5. The Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union Territories.